my address is 10 Southwell Gardens
London S.W.

Aug. 21

My dear Dr Gray

I have been for the last two days in a country house with our friend Hooker and he is gone within the last two hours to Herefordshire where he is tomorrow to be married to Lady Jardine. Of course you have heard all about it but as I know that you have a sincere

but I think she is now quite reconciled to the prospect and that she feels that the choice her father has made is a thoroughly good one. I ought before now to have thanked you for your kindness in sending me Mr Green's letter which I answer — better late than never — just before starting for an autumn excursion of two months in the Eastern Alps & Venetia. I hope to return to London before the end of October

believe me very truly Yours

John Ball

regard & friendship for him I think you will like to hear from me that as far as it is possible to forecast the step he is now taking seems in every way to promise happily both for him & his family —

His life has been a very anxious & unjoyous one since he lost his admirable wife being as he is of an anxious temperament the care & thought he has felt it necessary to give to his children has been a source of frequent anxiety & has doubtless interfered much with his scientific work — I had no idea that he was thinking or likely to think of Lady Jardine (who will tomorrow be Mrs Hooker) when many months ago I told my wife that I thought his marrying her the happiest thing that could happen for both.

His daughter Harriet who has shown more energy & maturity of character than any one expected at first seemed to have a strong aversion to the idea of his marrying again